

Factory Production Reported Up In May; Expected to Rise More

By REYNOLDS KNIGHT
Production of the nation's factories in May showed an increase of three points from the April level, and indications are that June may bring further gains, according to the Federal Reserve Board.

Over-all production of mills, mints and utilities was at 108 per cent of the 1957 average, the basis for comparison. This compared with 105 for April and 102 for the first three months of the year.

GAINS IN May virtually were all in manufacturing. Mine production held steady while utility output rose one per cent.

June, the report noted, is expected to bring a moderate

increase in automobile production, with steel activity showing a less-than-usual decline for the month.

THERE WAS no slackening in any industrial field during May, the report shows, and production advances were recorded in television, radio, furniture, clothing, construction material, farm machinery, business equipment and textiles.

Employment, income, retail sales, construction and bank credit also shared in the recovery, the report noted.

VACATION SURGE — More Americans are taking vacation trips this year than did in 1960, and all but a handful of them are traveling by car, and they

plan to spend more money on their vacations than they did last year.

These are among findings from the annual vacation survey conducted by Renault, Inc., U.S. marketing subsidiary of the world's sixth-largest motor vehicle manufacturer, Renault of France. The survey covered a representative sampling of Americans in 48 continental states, with questionnaires distributed in proportion to car registrations in each state.

SOME 82 per cent of those queried said they are taking vacation trips; this compares with 76 per cent who said they made trips in 1960. And as was true last year, 8 per cent of these vacation trips are being made by car.

The vacationists will spend an average of \$516 this year for transportation, housing, food and entertainment. This compares with \$507 last year.

"The importance of vacation spending to American business is evidenced by the fact that the American Automobile Association estimates some \$25 billion was spent on automobile vacationing in the nation last year," comments Vincent P. Grob, executive vice president of Renault, Inc.

SWINE SAVING — In the past 30 years the U.S. farmer has made fast progress in efficient production both of crops and animals, yet some observers say the trend still is just getting started.

Confirming this is a report from the Cargill-Nutrena research farm near Elk River, Minn., which claims the average U.S. hog farmer, with better management and housing for his animals, can improve his time-and-labor efficiency 80 per cent.

THE CONCLUSION is drawn from a six-month study comparing the man-hour requirements for two different types of hog production systems. One type is what hog-men refer to as "central" housing—a barn-like structure in which an entire swine herd is kept. The second is a new "isolation" housing concept in which pregnant sows are kept in individual units, separated from others in the herd. It was created primarily to reduce the chance of disease among litters

of highly susceptible baby pigs. The farm's central system required 791 hours of workmen's time during the six months, 80 per cent more than the 439 hours needed to manage a comparable number of animals in an isolation system, reports Dr. Francis Wingert, Cargill-Nutrena swine specialist.

UNDER THE "central" system pens have to be cleaned once every day and sows must be taken out of stall twice a day for feeding, exercise and relief, but in isolation housing the workers need have no contact with the sow and cleaning is necessary only every fifth day.

This means an enormous number of swine farmers today can either expand present hog operations without additional labor, or free more than two

working hours daily for other farm projects," Wingert said.

THINGS TO COME — A new scientific toy made by Infrared Industries, Inc., of Waltham, Mass., permits two-way voice communication on a beam of light. A plastic gallon milk container which is stronger, lighter and cheaper than glass has been developed by Hydrocarbon Chemicals, Inc., of Keyport, New Jersey.

WASTED EFFORT — Churches, schools and other groups that have collected and sold waste paper and other scrap material to raise funds are finding the road difficult these days. Dealers in Chicago now pay around \$2 a ton for old newspapers and magazines,

compared with a price of \$20 about 10 years ago. In fact some Chicago office buildings pay up to \$15 a ton to have waste paper hauled away. Paperboard mills, the major consumers of waste paper, run at nearly as high a rate as a year ago, but they are using more pulp; it yields a cleaner board that takes a better printing job.

BITS O' BUSINESS — If you like cherries jubilee, this is your year. Reports from the West Coast reveal that sweet cherries now sell for \$7.59 a crate in Chicago, down 56 cents from last year. The Pacific Coast states that account for most of the fruit are expected to produce 67,000 tons this year, or 40 per cent more than in 1960.

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